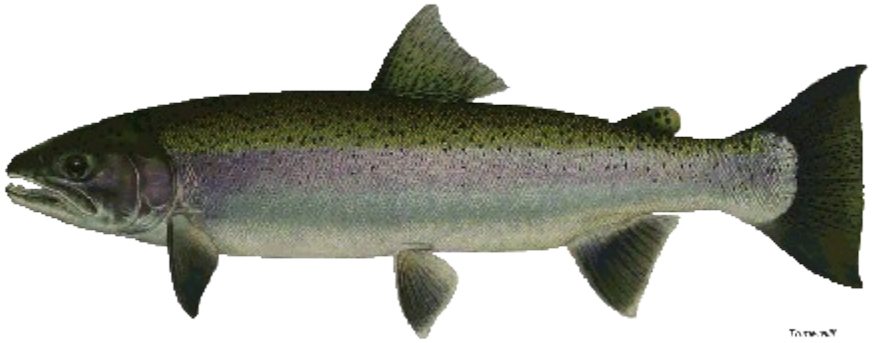
National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Habitat Conservation

Patrick J. Rutten, Field Supervisor
Southwest NOAA Restoration Center

Project Coordination and Permitting



Project Triggers

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Endangered Species Act
- ACOE Discretion and Professional Judgment
- To Consult, or not to Consult, That is the Question
- ***Interagency Cooperation***

  Section 7 (a) Federal Agency Actions and Consultations – (1) "All Federal agencies shall, in consultation with the assistance of the Secretary, utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to section 4 of the Act."

How to Make the Process Work

- Early Communication
- Early Coordination
- Preparation of good Biological Assessments
- Relationships are Everything
  - Advocating for the resource with the common Federal position
  - Know who you can call and who has expertise
  - Have the ability to collaborate and compromise – nothing is black and white
  - Professional credibility is a two way street and credibility is everything

Examples of Successes and Failures